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REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated July 28, 2005. Claims 1 to 28 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 8, 13, 20 and 28 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claim 2 was objected to because of an informality. The informality has been corrected. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw this objection.

Claims 1 to 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) over U.S. Patent No. 6,151,131 (Pepin). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The invention of independent Claims 1, 8, 13, 20, and 28 generally concerns the copying and printing of images. Among its many features, the present invention includes (i) inputting designation information for arranging plural image originals read by a scanner device at different predetermined positions of a print data, and (ii) print processing of the print data and the read plural image originals on the basis of the information inputted by the input means.

Referring specifically to claim language, independent Claim 1 is directed to an image processing apparatus having storing means for storing print data requested from an information processing apparatus. The apparatus includes: input means for inputting designation information for arranging plural image originals read by a scanner device at different predetermined positions of the print data, respectively; and print processing means for effecting print processing of the print data and the read plural image originals on the basis of the information inputted by the input means.

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In contrast, Applicant respectfully submits that Pepin is not seen to disclose or suggest at least (i) inputting designation information for arranging plural image originals read by a scanner device at different predetermined positions of a print data, and (ii) print processing of the print data and the read plural image originals on the basis of the information inputted by the input means.

Pepin discloses a method of developing a job for output with an output subsystem. The method includes generating a first electronic representation of a first image at a first time, reading a subset of placemarking instructions at a second time, generating a second representation of a second image at a third time, wherein the second time is after the first time but before the third time. At a fourth time, which fourth time is after the first, second and third times, a selected function is performed relative to a third electronic representation of the third image in response to the reading of the subset of placemaking instructions. (See Pepin, Abstract).

However, Pepin is not seen to disclose or suggest inputting designation information for arranging plural image originals at different predetermined positions of a print data and print processing of the print data and the read plural image originals on the basis of the information inputted by the input means.

Pepin discloses that for off-site image input, an image input section has, in one example, a network with a suitable communication channel connection enabling image data in the form of image signals or pixels from one or more remote sources to be input to a system for processing, and that for on-site image input, the image input section has a document scanner section with a Universal Document Handler (UDH) for the purpose of automatically and sequentially placing and locating sets of multiple documents for scanning. (See Pepin, Column 5, lines 63 to 67 and Column 6, lines 6 to 9).

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In contrast, the current invention features inputting designation information for arranging plural image originals read by a scanner device at different predetermined positions of a print data.

Pepin also discloses a printer section 8 (Figure 2), and a printer system control 128 (Figure 2) which automatically and precisely controls all the printer functions and operations in accordance with job program parameters received from system control 54 of controller section 7. (See Pepin, Column 5, line 56, and Column 6, lines 64 to 67).

In contrast to Pepin, the current invention features print processing of the print data and the read plural image originals on the basis of the information inputted by the input means.

Moreover, the term "placemarking" as used in Pepin appears to be an indication of reading in logical tags marking a segment of a print job, at which locations functions are offered to the user. (See Pepin, Column 9, lines 36-50; Column 10, lines 55-65). Placemarking as in Pepin does not appear to be at all related to the concept of placing actual images at different predetermined positions of data that is printed, such as a front cover position or a back cover position, as in the present invention.

In light of the deficiencies of Pepin as discussed above, Applicant submits that independent Claim 1 is in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Independent Claims 8, 13, 20 and 28 are directed to an apparatus, two methods, and a system, respectively, substantially in accordance with the apparatus of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claims 8, 13, 20 and 28 are also now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

In addition, the other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be allowable over the

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applied references for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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